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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, discussions with the Defence Ministry of the Government of India are in progress in respect of taking over some land which is behind the Secretariat buildings. We have more or less come to some arrangement by which the Defence Ministry have agreed to give us, among other things, some land in the *Fort. St. George* itself. As soon as this is finalized steps would be taken to increase the accommodation.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, is there any proposal to construct a new hall for the Legislative Council?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is too early to say. But we are getting 2½ acres of land within the Fort itself.

* 179 to 183 *Q.*—MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Nos. 179 to 183 are postponed as the Hon. Minister concerned is not here.

Bus and lorry transport

* 184 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to nationalize the bus and lorry transport in the State ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (i) *Bus transport.*—

There is no change in the Government's policy of progressive nationalization of road transport. Specific decisions will be taken by Government from time to time.

(ii) *Lorry transport.*—There is at present no proposal for nationalization of lorry transport.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : In view of the decision of the Government not to nationalize bus and lorry transport, is there any proposal to fix a ceiling for the number of buses to be owned by any individual or company?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No, Sir. We do not propose to fix any such ceiling. Grant of permits is regulated by an Act and permits will be issued according to the provisions of that Act.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : How are the profits that accrue through nationalized transport utilized?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The profit goes into the general revenues. The hon. Member may have seen in the note which I have circulated to both the Houses that in the last five years the nationalized transport has given to the general revenues of the State Rs. 1,13,00,000.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : What are the difficulties that stand in the way of the Government in putting a ceiling on the number of buses to be owned, when this Government believe in a socialistic pattern of society?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Because, Sir, Government do not think it necessary.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is there any proposed to earmark the profits separately for the purchase of new vehicles to avoid the congestion in the buses?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the way in which the net revenues are disposed of is as follows :—

We pay an interest of $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent on capital borrowed from the Government.

We set apart 1/6th of the cost of the fleet as depreciation charges.

Then we set apart a certain amount for the development fund.

We have also a passenger amenity fund.

Then after paying all these things the net surplus is again transferred to the general revenues as profits.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Are not the Government aware of the disparities created on account of the existing rules? Some companies are allowed to own hundreds of buses and innumerable people in the State who do not have any other avocation are denied permits?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I have already answered that the grant of permits is regulated by law and if a person is eligible under the law, then I do not see why he should be prevented from having it.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, are we to understand that the new buses are purchased from out of the revenue account and no allocation is made out of the profits for the purchase of buses?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, this is rather a different kind of arrangement so far as Government undertakings are concerned. Whenever we expand the route, we will have to borrow money from the Government notwithstanding the fact that there is already enough money in the depreciation fund, and pay interest on that. But what we have now done is to provide for a development fund from which a part of the augmentation fleet will be purchased and another part from the borrowings from the Government.

Industrial Estate at Kancheepuram

* 185 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of Sri A. K. Thangavel Mudaliar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to start an Industrial Estate at Kancheepuram; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) The question does not arise.